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SENATE PANEL SPLIT OVER C.I.A. INQUIRY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 (AP)

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee was reportedly divided Tuesday over the desirability of inquiring into the secret operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senator George D. Aiken, Republican of Vermont, said after the closed meeting that he doubted if the committee would approve setting up a subcommittee for the study, as proposed yesterday by Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota.

Senator McCarthy said, however, that he would not press for action on his resolution, and that in his judgment the committee ultimately would move to assert "at least some sort of formal jurisdiction, or take a more active interest" in the C.I.A.'s operations.

Senator Aiken said the committee had been sharply divided over the issue but that prospects for approval at this time "are very, very dim."

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